GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2461
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Funds for Development and Promotion of Tourism
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the number of proposals for development and promotion of tourism received from the State Governments and sanctioned by the Union Government during each of the last three years, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the major Centrally sponsored schemes for development and promotion of tourism have achieved the desired results in the country during the said period, if so, the details thereof, Scheme-wise;
(c) whether the Government has provided adequate funds for development and promotion of tourism under the said schemes during the said period, if so, the details thereof, Scheme-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(d) the other steps taken by the Government for development and promotion of tourism in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

The centrally sponsored scheme i.e. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) has been delinked from Union support w.e.f. the year 2015-16, pursuant to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission for higher devolution of 42% of Union taxes and duties to the States.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched following two new schemes during 2014-15:

i. Swadesh Darshan for development of theme based tourist circuits in a way that caters to both mass and niche tourism in a holistic manner.
ii. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) for the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites.

The State/UT-wise and scheme wise details of number of projects, amount sanctioned, the UC received and the implementation status of the projects during the last three years is given in the Annexure.

Other important initiatives taken by the Government for development and promotion of Tourism include:

? Introduction of facility of e-Tourist Visa for the citizens of 150 countries at 16 airports including extension of Visa on Arrival facility to the nationals of Japan.
? Launch of 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Info Line handling ten international languages besides Hindi and English.
? The Ministry of Tourism has launched 'Welcome Booklet' with information on Dos and Don'ts for tourists, contact details of India Tourism domestic offices and Tourist Helpline Number for distribution at immigration counters to tourists arriving at international airports.
? Launch of Swachh Paryatan App.
? Promotion of India as a holistic destination in the international markets under the Incredible India brand-line.
? Organization of biennial International Buddhist Conclave.
? Organization of Annual International Tourism Mart for promotion of tourism in North Eastern States.
? Promotion of activities in tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices abroad with active participation in International Tourism Events.
? Financial assistance to Stakeholders and Tourism Departments of States/Union Territories for undertaking promotional activities under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

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